

326884

Legal Notice: Opportunity to Comment

**Rico Trails Project
Revised Draft Environmental Assessment**

United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
San Juan National Forest,
Dolores Ranger District
Montezuma and Dolores
Counties, Colorado

The Dolores Ranger District of
the San Juan National Forest

Public Legals

requests your input on the proposed Rico Trails Project revised draft Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposed action consists of three new designated trails (Spring Creek, Rio Grande Southern, and Circle – totaling 10.4 miles), re-alignment of the existing Ryman Creek Trail, and decommissioning approximately 7.8 miles of non-motorized trails in the vicinity of the Spring Creek and Stoner Creek. In addition, a seasonal closure would be implemented for the Ryman Creek Trail from May 15 to June 30.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The revised draft EA and other supporting documents are available online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56748>. The revised draft EA provides more details on the proposed project and also provides a summary of the potential effects the project could have on various resources.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting, Tom Rice, Recreation Program Manager:
(970) 882-7296,
Thomas.b.rice@usda.gov
Dolores Ranger District Office,
29211 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO
81321

The Forest Service is providing an opportunity to comment, consistent with 36 CFR 218.24. This legal notice also serves to notify and invite public comment on the proposal as stipulated in §800.3 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The public is encouraged to provide specific written comments (§218.2) on this proposal for the responsible official to consider. The District Ranger for the Dolores Ranger District, as the responsible official, will consider the project and decide whether or not to approve implementation. Specific written comments should have a direct relationship to the proposed project.

Written comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice in *The Cortez Journal*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

The Rico Trails Project would implement the San Juan Forest's existing Land and Resource Management Plan and would be subject to the objection process pursuant to §218 Subparts A and B. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments will have eligibility to file an objection under §218.8. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunity. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in §218.25(a)(3), including that each individual or representative from each entity submitting written comments must provide the name and postal address of the individual or entity submitting the comment, and either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Names, contact information, and comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

The 30-day comment period will begin on June 24th. Electronic comments can be submitted through the electronic comment form located on the project webpage. Comments may also be submitted by means of written comment via the U.S. Postal Service or facsimile. Written comments must be postmarked by the US Postal Service or submitted via fax (970-882-0175), to the Dolores Ranger District Office (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) by the end of the comment period. Please address written comments to: Dolores Ranger District, Attention: Rico Trails Project, 29211 Hwy 184, Dolores, CO 81323.

Comments should include: 1) your name and postal address, 2) project title (Rico Trails Project), and 3) signature or other verification of identity upon request (36 CFR 218.25(a)(3)). Comments received in response to this request, including names, addresses and any other information provided with the comments, will be considered a part of the public record.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Published in The Journal June 24, 2020.